

Chapter 2. assessment of assessments (AoA, 2009) the United Nations General Assembly (1995) adopted the World Programme of Action for the Regular Process of Assessments at the Global, Regional and Sub-Regional Levels (WPA-1995). This process is designed to provide a global framework for assessing the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, on a continual and systematic basis by providing regular assessments at the global and supraregional levels and an integrated view of environmental, economic and social aspects. Such assessments would support informed decision-making and thus contribute to managing in a sustainable manner human activities that affect the oceans and seas, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982) and other applicable international instruments and initiatives. The Regular Process would facilitate the identification of trends and enable appropriate responses by States and competent regional and international organizations. The Regular Process would promote and facilitate the full participation of developing countries in all of its activities.

1. Overall objective

The Regular Process, under the United Nations, would be recognized as the global mechanism for reviewing the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, on a continual and systematic basis by providing regular assessments at the global and supraregional levels and an integrated view of environmental, economic and social aspects. Such assessments would support informed decision-making and thus contribute to managing in a sustainable manner human activities that affect the oceans and seas, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

¹ and other applicable international instruments and initiatives.

The Regular Process would facilitate the identification of trends and enable appropriate responses by States and competent regional and international organizations.

The Regular Process would promote and facilitate the full participation of developing countries in all of its activities.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series* vol. 1833, No. 31363.

Ecosystem approaches would be recognized as a useful framework for conducting fully integrated assessments.

2. Capacity-building and technology transfer

The Regular Process would promote, facilitate and ensure capacity-building and transfer of technology, including marine technology, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments and initiatives, for developing and other States, taking into account the criteria and guidelines on the transfer of marine technology of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

The Regular Process would promote technical cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

States and global and regional organizations would be invited to cooperate with each other to identify gaps and shared priorities as a basis for developing a coherent programme to support capacity-building in marine monitoring and assessment.

The value of large-scale and comprehensive assessments, notably in the Global Environment Facility's international waters large-marine ecosystems initiatives, in identifying and concentrating on capacity-building priorities would be recognized.

Opportunities for capacity-building would be identified, in particular on the basis of existing capacity-building arrangements and the identified capacity-building priorities, needs and requests of developing countries.

States and relevant international organizations, bodies and institutions would be invited to cooperate in building the capacity of developing countries in marine science, monitoring and assessment, including through workshops, training programmes and materials and fellowships.

Quality assurance procedures and guidance would be developed to assist Governments and international organizations to improve the quality and comparability of data.

3. Scope

The scope of the Regular Process is global and supraregional, encompassing the state

future scenarios that may have implications for policymakers.

4. Principles

The Regular Process would be guided by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments and initiatives, and would include reference to the following principles:

(a)

- (f) Support better policy and management at the appropriate scale by providing sound and integrated scientific analyses for decision-making by the relevant authorities;
- (g) Build on existing assessment frameworks, processes and institutions and thus provide a base for cooperation among governments and at the level of international institutions.

environmental, social and economic aspects would have to address. This

Assessment, the information available in the region where it was held, and capacity-building needs in that region. Reports of each workshop were made available on the website of the Division of Ocean Affairs and

11. Development of the first World Ocean Assessment

The starting point for each substantive chapter has been the outline developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, on the basis of proposals from the Group of Experts, approved by the General Assembly (AHWG, 2012; UNGA, 2012) and slightly amended by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in 2014 (AHWG, 2014). The writing teams, constituted as described above, elaborated this outline and, in some cases, assigned drafting duties within the Group. A draft chapter was

AHWGW (2010). Report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on
the Regular Process of Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the

- UNGA (2012). United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 67/78 (Oceans and the Law of the Sea).
- UNGA (2013). United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 68/70 (Oceans and the Law of the Sea).
- UNGA (2014). United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 69/245 (Oceans and the Law of the Sea).
- WSSD (2002). **Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002** (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 36 (b).